

DATE: February 11, 2015
TO: Transportation Committee Co-Chairs Guerrera and Maynard,
and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Lyle Wray, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments
SUBJECT: Support for SB 477 – An Act Concerning a Massachusetts Representative on the
Connecticut Airport Authority

This letter is written in support of SB 477 to add a representative from Massachusetts to the Connecticut Airport Authority.

By way of background, more than five years ago the Hartford Springfield Economic Partnership – the Knowledge Corridor Partnership – held a conference on the economic importance of the Bradley Airport and region's economy. A national aviation consultant keynoted the event and came to the Legislative Office Building to meet with legislators and one of the key topics was the creation of an airport authority that reflected the Hartford Springfield region.

The Hartford Springfield metropolitan area has 1.7 million people and the two core cities are less than 23 miles apart. Many of the types of firms such as precision manufacturing work with many based in the European Union work across the Hartford Springfield region and are users of the Bradley airport.

Adding a representative to the key stakeholder group for the airport from Massachusetts can help in future destination recruitment and marketing going forward.

We request your favorable consideration of this bill.

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